

EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER

EL 923480 242 US

# DECLARATION Utility Patent

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

## SURGICAL DEVICES FOR IMPOSING A NEGATIVE PRESSURE TO STABILIZE CARDIAC TISSUE DURING SURGERY

the specification of which is being filed herewith.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed.

| Application Number | Country | Date of Filing | Priority Claimed |      |
|--------------------|---------|----------------|------------------|------|
|                    |         |                | Yes ✓            | No ✓ |
|                    |         |                |                  |      |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

| Application Number | Date of Filing | Status — Patented, Pending or Abandoned |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| 08/603,328         | 02/20/96       | Pending                                 |

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first joint inventor Charles S. Taylor

Inventor's signature Charles S. Taylor

Date June 3, 1997

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XX This Declaration ends with this page.